



POLICY TITLE USE OF PESTICIDES IN AND AROUND WATER WORKS

NO.
11-01-01

Legislative Authority

the Pesticides Act

Statement of Principles

This policy establishes the practice of prohibiting or controlling the use and storage of pesticides in and around all water works. This requirement is necessary to ensure that potable water supplies are protected from contamination by pesticides.

This policy applies to those water works that require approval pursuant to Section 23 of the Ontario Water Resources Act, R.S.O. 1930, c. 361.

This policy is written in support of the Pesticides Act, Section 4, which restricts the discharge of a pesticide into the environment, such that human health is not adversely affected or likely to be adversely affected.

The policy further supports Policy 15-06 (Drinking Water Quality: Ontario Drinking Water Objectives) of the Manual of Environmental Policies and Guidelines which states that water for domestic use should be safe, palatable and aesthetically pleasing, and free from any disease-causing organisms or hazardous concentrations of chemicals or radioactive substances.

This policy does not apply to materials used in the treatment of water to achieve and maintain potability.

Point of Contact

Director, Hazardous Contaminants Branch

Effective Date

November 18, 1987

Definitions:Water Works

Water works means any works for the collection, production, treatment, storage, supply and distribution of water, or any part of any such works, and any installation, building or lands associated with a water works, but does not include plumbing or other works to which regulations made under Clause 44(2)(a) Ontario Water Resources Act, apply.

Pesticide

Any organism, substance or device used for controlling pests, including herbicides for use in the control of weeds, fungicides for the control of fungal organisms, insecticides for use in controlling lawn and garden insects and/or structural pests associated with the interior or exterior of water works facilities, and rodenticides for the control of rats or mice.

Acceptable Use of a Rodenticide

The use of a block formulation rodenticide bait housed in a secure bait station to prevent bait translocation by rodent pests, or bait tampering by humans.

1.0 Policy Objective

The objective of this policy is to ensure that potable water remains free from contamination by pesticides both during and after the treatment process.

2.0 Requirements2.1 General

The application of pesticides is to be prohibited around, over or in the immediate vicinity of water works. Of prime importance are those facilities where reservoirs are open to the air and are located out-of-doors, covered in-ground reservoirs, reservoirs located within structures and used for storage, flocculation or clarification processes, or any part of the facility where there are open water areas, or sites with water wells or springs located on the premises.

2.2 Storage

The storage of pesticides is to be prohibited within or on the premises of water works.

2.3 Tank Filling

The filling of private mixing tanks for pesticide application by personnel not employed by the water treatment facility is prohibited on the premises of water works. The filling of such tanks from off-premises hydrants shall not be done without the use of a back-flow device or anti-suction device between the water hydrant and the mixing tank.

3.0 Exemptions

3.1 Rodent Control

Exempt from this policy is the acceptable use of rodenticides for rat and mouse control within and around water works by a licensed structural exterminator, under the supervision of the water works operator.

3.2 Public Health

Exempt from this policy are the use of pest control products applied in the interest of public health under the Health Protection and Promotion Act to control disease-causing pests, or the control of noxious weeds by an order issued under the Weed Control Act or the use of chemical (micro-biological) agents for the control of microbes and bacteria. The application of all pest control products is to be carried out by a suitably licensed applicator.

3.3 Mechanical Devices

Exempt from this policy is the use of mechanical devices or apparatus which do not utilize any chemical agent.

3.4 Exempted Premises

Exempt from this policy is the use of pesticides on land or premises where there is no possibility of water contamination, such as elevated tanks, or premises where water is continuously under pressure and is enclosed in a pipe.

3.5 Notification

Where a water treatment facility is exempt from this policy, the plant operator will advise the Regional Director in writing prior to the commencement of an extermination.

4.0 Storage Facilities

If pesticides are used under the exemptions outlined in Section 3.0, then the storage facility shall conform to Regulation 751, Section 98 and 99 under the Pesticides Act.